

# THE NATIONAL ERA.

G. BAILEY, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR; JOHN G. WHITTIER, CORRESPONDING EDITOR.

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**THE NATIONAL ERA.**

WASHINGTON, APRIL 15, 1850.

(COPY-RIGHT SECURED.)

**THE MOTHER-IN-LAW.**

A STORY OF THE ISLAND STATE.

BY MRS. EMMA D. SOUTHWORTH.

BOOK SECOND.

V. CHAP.

Very glad of your compliment that would bring him in company with *Zoe*, who by her father's command had shunned him entirely for the last two months. Brutus threw himself upon his horse, rode rapidly down the mountain side, and entered the glen at the bottom of which the Dovecot lay. Windings down the circuitous path, he came in front of the cottage, as it rested against the back rocks. Throwing himself from his horse, he opened the little wider gate, and here a dead sight met his view.

The flowers in the garden had all been plucked; the bushes were torn up by the roots, and lay in bunches and piles around. The cottage windows were bare of blinds, and he saw through the open door that the pretty carpet was gone from the floor. On one side of the house stood *Zoe*, clasping two white Bantam chickens that he dropped into a hamper at his feet, already half full of poultry. He turned tremblingly around as he saw Brutus, and asked, in a querulous tone—

"What do you come here for, sir? Didn't I tell you to keep away from here? That I wouldn't have you here? It is very strange that you will persist in coming where you are not wanted."

On being told that he must go, he said, "I will take him with me—I will not let him go alone." And so he had his master's hand firmly in his, and led him to the stable, where he had his mire—what was he going to do? He thinks of nothing but money. He has carried to town, market all my things, and sold them—my new carpets and quilts—my new socks and gloves, and hats and flowers. Well, I was sorry, but I did not cry for them, because they were dead things—but now! Oh no! he is trying my poor dear hens and chickens, to take them to market to-morrow. Look! See! Poor dead Specie—and—poor darling Blossom, and—she wants to take lovely Snow-drop—and—he is choking sobs convulse the child's bosom, as she hugged her white Emma closer to her bosom.

"What are you sobbing, for my miserable little wench? Save your tears, you'll have a use for them! I have the chickens here; I will, if you weep, weep for yourself. I must make up two hundred dollars, and I have not got six yet!" and the old man held out his trembling and claw-like fingers for the Bantams.

"Glad to see you, *Zoe*, my darling, I will give you some—these are not—no feather of your petticoat—these are—these are not—no feather of your petticoat."

"Well! You're here yet? Didn't I tell you to go?"

"We've got a sick young man up to our house, and the doctor has ordered him to eat chicken. I want to have a dozen."

"Eh? Yes! well! what? these are good chickens, and must bring a good price; and since it is for a sick man, and since he is obliged to take them—say a dollar a pair!"

After having shovelled tears and kisses upon *Zoe*, he handed the Bantams to the old man.

"Say, sir!" exclaimed Brutus, touching the old man's elbow, to arrest his attention, for the schoolmaster in his occupation had apparently forgotten him; "say, sir!"

"Oh, father!" exclaimed ZOE.

"Never mind! never mind! *Zoe*, dear, I'm no Jew. That is it, sir! I'll take many a year to wait for me at home."

"Take care, sir!"

"Again. Well, my god sir, there is another thing—the doctor, besides ordering this rich young man to eat chicken, has ordered him to divert his mind by learning Greek lessons?"

"Eh? Well?"

"And we want to engage a teacher for him in the house?"

"Eh! well! yes! what then?"

"We were thinking of you, sir!"

"Ah, yes; to be sure, that is it to be sure; but we are, and we must be liberally compensated, this private tuition!"

"Certainly, sir, he is a wealthy Englishman, and can afford it; in the time of his illness, I am his banker, and I can secure it to you," said Brutus, burdening his conscience with his lie.

"*Zoe*, go pack up Herodotus, *Bæschylus*, Empires, and Sophocles; go! When is it that you want to come, sir?"

"To-night, sir, to be ready to commence in the morning."

"Well, well! Yes, but what am I to do with *Zoe*?"

"Sir, my sister, you know, is a wild girl; she does not know how to prepare delicate dishes for an invalid, and all our negra women have run away, and so my sister told me to entice her friend *Zoe* to come to the *Liv*, and give her some directions in these matters."

"Yes, but *Zoe* ought to be paid! No, she shall not, either! I don't deserve *Zoe*!" And the old man burst into tears.

"Oh, what a shock!" muttered Brutus, looking down on the gray head, bowed upon the weathered hands.

At last he looked up imploringly to the young man's face, and said—

"Brutus, you have to sell the Dovecot; how much will you give me for it?"

"But I don't want to buy it, sir."

"You don't? Come, I will sell it to you cheap."

"For *Zoe*'s sake, sir! I love *Zoe*; I wish to marry *Zoe*; I will devote my life to her happiness; consent to our marriage, and her future is secured!"

"*Zoe*, you love her?"

"God knows it!"

"Only her?"

"Only her, of all womankind!"

"*Zoe*, you cannot marry her!"

"You have said so before, sir; but that does not prove it!"

"*Zoe*, swear that you will not divulge what I tell you?"

"I swear it, sir!"

"*Zoe* is a slave!"

*Zoe* LION roared as if struck by a cannon ball.

"Great God, sir!"

"And there are some in this neighborhood that know it?"

"Sir! sir! how did this come to your knowledge?"

"Two months ago, through an old midwife; yesterday, through Mrs. Armstrong."

"Through Mrs. Armstrong?"

"Yes; yes; she sent for me, and told me, advising me to get the child out of the State; but, advised poor baby, where can I send her, alone and unprotected?"

"And who is her owner?"

"Major Somerville."

"And who are her parents?"

"Her slaves, Harry and George."

"Impossible!"

"Tazu, tell you?"

"But the particulars! for God's sake, give me the particulars!"

"Well, then, this is it: You remember after my Greek class?"

"Yes."

"I have come home one evening, and found no one here but you, with *Zoe*?"

"Yes, yes! And I remember your signature!"

"Well, I might be grieved?"

"I had been dining with Major Somerville, and set with him smoking our pipes until the sun went down the steep of the Crags, and turned into the deep dell that lies between my old schoolhouse and the river. At the bottom of this dell the wood is thick, and the branches meeting over head, together with the very high hills around and behind, throw a deep shadow deep, like night at noon."

"What! when I overtook *Zoe* LION, when I met her when I overtook *Zoe* LION, when I met her?"

"She was riding slowly along on her mare. 'Oho! she's an ugly horse, more hideous than her niece Kate'—"

"What! was she riding slowly along on her mare?"

"It was so narrow that I could not pass her. She turned at the sound of my horse's feet, and said, 'Good evening, master!'" Good evening, master! I have come to see you, to speak with you, to tell you all about myself."

"My master! I well knew not, not liking her familiarity; and a silence ensued. Still had to keep company on the road. At last, without saying a word, I stopped her, and asked, 'What master?' 'The fifteenth of April,' I thought.

"'The fifteenth of April?' I asked.

"'I am fit dying!'"

"'Oh! I am fit, forgive me, and spare my life!' exclaiming the poor, crushed girl, thinking remissly of regaining a moment's repose.

"She hurried from the room wildly, and then came back again, and said, 'I have a great desire, death! death! death! for my master!'"

"'I have a great desire, death! death! death!'"



## CONGRESS.

## THIRTY-FIRST CONGRESS—FIRST SESSION.

SENATE.

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 1850.

Mr. Cass presented the resolutions of the Legislature of California in favor of the Union, and authorizing the Senate to use every means in its power so to act and vote as would best promote the interests of the Union. Mr. Cass submitted the presentation with a few words in harmony.

At the expiration of the morning hour, the orders of the day were called. The first business in order was the reading of resolutions from the Legislature of California, and the California Message was taken up, and, on motion of Mr. Upman who wished to speak upon the subject, postponed. Motion was made that the resolution of the Committee of Mr. Bell be referred to a Select Committee of Thirteen, with instructions to report to the Senate at the earliest opportunity for the settlement of all the questions arising out of the institution of slavery. To this motion Mr. Baldwin submitted an amendment, adding to it the following:

"But nothing in this resolution shall be construed to authorize the said Committee to take into consideration anything which relates to the admission of the State of California into the Union."

The Vice President stated the question on the latter amendment.

Mr. Upman.—President, I agree as a reason why the Senate should not mix up other matters with the bill for the admission of California, that the course of the sixty years of legislation and the course of the present Session have not been an example of mixing up any foreign matter with their admission. Every one had come in on its own merits, or, in company with some other State, and if there was any error committed by the Senate in the admission of any State, it was that there was some error in that state which should be corrected, and which could be corrected without any damage to the Union. The first case I cite is that of the State of Vermont. She was admitted by an act of February 15, 1791, and nothing could be more simple or brief than that provision, nor more worthy of our imitation now. It is entitled

"An act for the admission of the State of Vermont into this Union."

The State of Vermont having petitioned the Congress to be admitted member of the United States;

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, that it is hereby enacted and declared,

That on the fourth day of March, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-one, the said State, by and with the consent of two-thirds of the Senate and the concurrence of three-fourths of the House of Representatives, shall be admitted into the Union, and become one of the United States of America."—(Stat. at L. 189.)

This is the first case; the next is the case of Kentucky.

Act of February 4, 1791, consents to the formation of the new State, and provides that "on the first day of June, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-one, it shall be received and admitted into the Union as a new and entire member of the United States of America."—(Stat. at L. 189.)

The next is the case of Tennessee, by the act of 1st of June, 1796, "that it be admitted into the Union, and continue no other subject."—(Stat. at L. 43.)

The next is the State of Ohio, "Admitted by joint resolution of a Committee of both Houses, on the 17th instant, into the Union."—(Stat. at L. 43.)

Tennessee.—Admitted by joint resolution of the Senate and House of Representatives on the 17th instant, April 1802.—(2 Stat. at L. 189.)

Act of 19th February, 1803, "to provide for the admission of the State of Ohio into the United States within the State of Ohio," declared the State to have "become one of the United States."—(2 Stat. at L. 189.)

Nothing embraces any other subject than relates to the State of Ohio.

Then the act authorizing the formation of a Constitution and State Government, "to be known as the State of Missouri," which did not end in the name of the State, but set, and contained nothing in the name of the State that did not relate to the admission of the State.

Missouri.—Admitted by joint resolution of 2d December, 1820.—(2 Stat. at L. 54.)

Act of 10th February, 1830, "to provide for the admission of the State of Missouri into the United States within the State of Ohio," declared the State to have "become one of the United States."—(2 Stat. at L. 189.)

Nothing embraces any other subject than relates to the State of Missouri.

Then the act authorizing the formation of a Constitution and State Government, "to be known as the State of Arkansas," which did not end in the name of the State, but set, and contained nothing in the name of the State that did not relate to the admission of the State.

Arkansas.—Admitted by joint resolution of 11th December, 1836.—(2 Stat. at L. 54.)

Mississippi.—Admitted by joint resolution of 2d March, 1820.—(2 Stat. at L. 54.)

Michigan.—Admitted by joint resolution of 2d March, 1837.—(2 Stat. at L. 54.)

Alabama.—Admitted by joint resolution of 2d March, 1819.—(2 Stat. at L. 54.)

Florida.—Admitted by joint resolution of 2d March, 1845.—(2 Stat. at L. 54.)

Illinois.—Admitted by joint resolution of 2d December, 1818. Contains nothing but the admission of the State. (Stat. at L. 54.)

Indiana.—Admitted by joint resolution of 14th December, 1819. Contains nothing but the admission of the State. (Stat. at L. 54.)

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she has done what she ought not to do, in endeavoring to secure her freedom, and to be admitted into the United States, and with which she wanted nothing to do.

Mr. Clay said that each of the cases referred to by the Senator depended upon the state of circumstances in which the case was made, and the character of the question; that the practice of proslavery was that now prevalent in the public mind, and a course was then adopted similar to the course proposed to be adopted now. What the course proposed to be adopted now, was the course proposed to be adopted by the Senate.

The Senator from Massachusetts said it is fair enough in the abstract, but when you come to look into it, it will be found to be otherwise. A course of action will be adopted which will be the same as that proposed by the Senate.

Mr. Upman who wished to speak upon the subject, postponed. Why, sir, your friends have been in the same position as mine.

Mr. Foote had moved to refer a Select Committee of Thirteen, with instructions to report to the Senate at the earliest opportunity for the settlement of all the questions arising out of the institution of slavery.

To this motion Mr. Baldwin had submitted an amendment, adding to it the following:

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After some remarks by Messrs. Hale and Foote, Mr. Benton moved to refer a Select Committee of Thirteen, with instructions to report to the Senate at the earliest opportunity for the settlement of all the questions arising out of the institution of slavery.

Mr. Clay, to prevent misapprehension, would move to amend the amendment, as follows:

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The Senator from Massachusetts said it is not

sufficient whether the question of combining the different subjects is taken up, or not, the report of a committee, that is, a report in practice.

The Vice President said, that he would accept the amendment, as it was, and that he would accept the report of the Select Committee.

Mr. Clay could not understand why indigent persons should be sent to California, and with what object. He said, "I am not in a position to say, but I am not in a position to say, that they are to be sent to California, in a scheme of pacification in which she is to be admitted."

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ARCHAIE:

A CHAPTER ON NEEDLES AND NEEDLEWORK.

MARY REYNO.

The Needle has its victims, as well as the Sword. Watching the light weavings of a spider's web over a magnificent piece of embroidery, the other day, I was irresistibly reminded of the transformation of poor Archæe of old. What a miracle of industry must that poor victim of metamorphosis have been! What a sad example is her story of poverty and laboring toil, which often annihilates the energies both of soul and body, in the unceasing but unmeasured effort of intent to compete with genius.

Archæe, as every reader of his well-thumbed Classical Dictionary remembers, engaged in a contest for precedence in the working of embroidery with Minerva, the goddess of wisdom, who, unlike many of her sister "blues" of the present day, seems to have counted a conquest in the empire of needlework as among "the weightier matters." But the poor girl, though she had devoted herself to her art. Unconsciously led by her intent trial and comparison, she toiled on with a fanaticism of purpose that would be called a maniacism in our day, till Jove, taking pity on the poor bodily frame that held this determined soul, transformed it into that of an unsightly spider. The sentence was passed upon the infatuated child of mortality—Weave-weave forever!

Wear, and be thy weaving still! Blighted by the spider's skill—  
Weave—weave forever! Then whose whines dared to hope With thy hand—Weave—despair over!

I have often pictured her, as she sat, day after weary day, bending over her endless task, before her eye quite lost its lustre, or her cheek its human brightness. The motion of her long, attenuated fingers must have become instinctive and automatic, as the hand of a child to the hands that take hold in king's palaces? What mattered it to her that the essence of her soul was evaporating day by day, as she left its lamp unburned, its curse unrepentant. She had no time to reflect, no time to feel, no time to rest, spirit must yield—and soon body too.

And where were thought and feeling in that long, wasting struggle? Could no spark from a child's eye, or a woman's heart, stir up a spark of human sympathy? Could no sunlight bathe the hills of Colophon call her out to revive the fainting spirits of those in the frames of Heaven? Yet, a finger's touch in the frames of Heaven! And a mother's love, whose fingers never turned! No other earthly claim could win her ambition from the empire of the needle. Persephone, too, as it is said, has been torn up, to give the three golden apples of the golden bough bear in our social sphere. Perhaps here was a meander in nature's more rivulets, a vale entwined with flowers, and a stream that winds its way through the Grecian woods, and successfully for the destiny of her mortal rival. She died indeed, but weave the garb of her countrymen, and the shadow of her death won in the strife of intellect. Happy the woman who, like Minerva, brings to the mastery of the needle a mind richly stored with the gifts of industry and art; and who, as it has been termed, "gives out in the form of a garment the impresses of her own soul."

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But these are not the only victims. Violence, and the pride of taste which sometimes accompanies it, have made many a homeless widow, and the wife of many a husband. There serve the double purpose of mementoes and warning. Dearly, as it is, or an exhibition room does not fit in with the taste of the world, brought by the long labor of grecian fingers, and lit by the faded lustre of some bright eye, tell the old story of ambition and industry run wild.

There are some who term themselves "aristocrats," who are not, away, swaying their haughty heads over the common war of sewing with starvation. But it is of a more limited class that would make mention—those who follow Archæe in the empire of the arts and embroidery.

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The Needie, though, like the Pen, is most upholding and most masterful in its methods. Though a mortal's span of life is short to compare with the life of many persons, and though few of Minerva's daughters ever ought to rival in city or State the skill of the Needie, yet, in the eyes of the Needie, in its relations to utility and comfort, there is no comparison between the two.

Friends!—you will say, "to a Radical, in freeing her from bondage to the mind's torment, when that mind had deserted it. Nothing is so absurd as to wear a worn-out human casque, robed in its iron.

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"With sh'd have her books, and she is real—she is real!"

Misgarded effort is written on the fable and face of Archæe. Perseverance, we are told, is

"one of the great elements of character; but perseverance is itself not character, and will not easily be mistaken through its results. It is the right arm of Genius; but, when lifted by Folly, works harm in proportion to its strength. Hence are they, who, in the form of the fable, have given us the motto, 'In your quest, clear vision, at once the Present and the Past, and see, even in the dimness of the Future, a light to guide your progress and its power.'

March, 1850.

For the National Era.  
STANZAS.

Thy hand, my brother toller,  
There's something in its grasp  
That tells me 'tis no shadow,  
Or nothing; 'tis a shape;  
That has a heart, and lungs,  
That feels in this world labor,  
And, ailing, thurs, to die.

Thy lip has learned to whine,  
My heart to beat with pain and fear;  
Upon thy brow was never set  
Hyperion's fatal seal;

There's a sad expanse of speech,  
In thy bright eyes of speech,

More than all the smoothness  
False etiquette can teach.

Then take my hand, my brother,  
There's something in it strong and wise,  
To make me strong in strength and hope  
And confidence of success;

There's a gay golden bower  
Swathing how dead would wear,  
And thy hand will earn them,  
If the dead do not despair.

"A. L."

Perseverance Man, New York.

For the National Era.  
TO THE HON. DALE WEBSTER.

DEAR SIR:—The opening of your speech, in an ardent point of view, is admirable; but as I am not prone to consider it as a political effort, I will not follow it up. Still, however, I must deny myself the pleasure of dwelling upon the force, impressiveness, brevity, unfreedom but startling imagery, and the logical power of expression, in your speech, and the boldness of your exhortation to the world.

Now, sir, let us, as Christians, be consistent. If we and if Christian ministers feel indignant at the means of the Slave Power, let us, in the first instance, oppose it, as it has been organized, to the best of our knowledge, in the religious training of children under the Sun of Zion?

Such a society is the "American Sunday School Union," that, at the bidding of the Slave Power, has been organized, and is now in full operation, for years past, because of one of its slaveholding vice presidents at Charleston, South Carolina, had dimmed in the eye of Definition of a slave, and a very large portion of the slaves.

If the law is made for such, why not enforce it? Is it inexpedient to do what God has appointed to be done?

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